ATTACHMENT A
Remarks

Considering the matters raised in the Office Action in the same order as raised, the specification has been objected to "because the body lacks descriptive headings." The Examiner has suggested that the body "may be formatted using the following suggested headings: Field of the Invention, Background of the Invention, Summary of the Invention, Brief Description of the Drawings, Detailed Description, and Claims." The suggestions of the Examiner have been adopted in amending the body of the specification. It is noted that the "Claims" section had already been provided with a suitable heading.

Figure 1 has been objected to "because it requires a prior art label, since only what is already known is shown." Figure 1 has been amended to include the label "PRIOR ART" as required.

Before considering the remainder of the Office Action, it is noted that the Office Action includes two versions of page 2 and two versions of page 3. With respect to the "Claim Objections," it is assumed that the more comprehensive version of page 2 is the appropriate one and, with respect to the claims, it is assumed that the Examiner is intending to reject all of the claims as being "anticipated by" Yamamoto. The rejection of the claims will be considered below.

With respect to the "Claim Objections," it is first noted that claims 51-53 have been canceled. Regarding the objection to claim 32 "because it presents no substantially new inventive information over independent claim 17," it is noted that claim 32 is a system claim whereas claim 17 is directed to the primary unit. Regarding

the objection to claim 45, claim 45 has been canceled. Moreover, with respect to the objection to claim 61 "because it presents no substantially new inventive information over independent claims 17, 46, 54," it is noted that claims 46 and 54 have been canceled. With respect to claim 17, claim 61 is essentially a "means plus a function" version of claim 17. It is respectfully submitted that it is proper and appropriate for Applicant to present separate claims to the primary unit and the system and to present claims to the primary unit using two different formats (one being a "means plus a function" format as indicated above).

Turning to the rejection of all of the claims as being anticipated by Yamamoto, it is noted that claims 17, 23, 32, 42, 61, and 64 have been amended, claims 19, 20, 22, 39, 45-60, 62, 63, and 65-71 have been canceled, and new claims 72-92 have been presented.

Turning to the claims, a first group of claims is formed by claim 17 (primary unit), claim 32 (system), claim 42 (portable electrical or electronic device), and claim 61 (primary unit using means plus a function language). In order to more clearly distinguish these claims from the cited Yamamoto reference, the claims have been amended to recite that the attaching element is independent of the inductive power supply (or in the case of the independent claim 42 directed to the device, independent of the inductive power receiver of the device).

In Yamamoto, as shown in Figures 1 and 2, the attaching elements comprise a hook on the primary unit and a corresponding "eye" on the portable electrical or electronic devices. In particular, the hook is formed by induction core 107 while the eyes are formed by the charging arches 113 in which the secondary side coil 205 is

disposed. In particular, the "secondary side coil 205 exists in an annular space which is defined by the charging arch 113 shown in Fig. 2 and a part under this arch 113." It is agreed that the outer cylindrical surface of the hook (induction coil) 107 can be regarded as a power transfer surface.

The hook-and-eye arrangement of Yamamoto is effective in preventing movement of the device or devices in a direction orthogonal to the outer cylindrical surface of the induction core 107. However, in Yamamoto, the attaching element of the primary unit and the attaching element of the device are part of the inductive power supply or inductive power receiver and thus, Yamamoto does not disclose the feature of amended claims 17, 32, and 36 wherein the attachment element is recited as being independent of the inductive power supply. Similarly, the attachment in Yamamoto does not meet the requirement of amended claim 42 that the attachment element be independent of the inductive power receiver.

It is important to understand that by using an attaching element which is independent of the inductive power supply or inductive power receiver, better performance can be achieved without any unwanted trade-offs between attaching convenience and power transfer efficiency. In this regard, when, as provided in Yamamoto, the attaching element is used both to attach the device and to supply the device with inductive power, there is an undesirable trade-off between, for example, the efficiency of power supply (which demands a tight fit between the core 107 and the charging arches 113) and the ease of attachment (which dictates a loose fit). With the arrangement of the present invention, this kind of trade-off is not necessary because of the independence of the attaching element from the inductive power supply/receiver.

It is noted that claims 17, 32, 42, and 61 have also been amended to include the feature originally presented as a first alternative in original claim 20 ("said at least one attaching element is adapted to attach the device to the primary unit in any position along a line extending in one translational dimension across the power supply surface"). These claims, as amended, make it clear that power is received when the device is placed in any position along that line. It is to be understood that these features are not intended to further distinguish the claims in question from Yamamoto but are instead intended to more clearly define the present invention.

Independent claim 64 is directed to a second important distinguishing feature. As amended, claim 64 recites that the inductive power supply of the primary unit is arranged so that no part thereof is visible when viewing the surface of the item of furniture in proximity to which the portable electrical device is placed to receive power inductively from the primary unit.

It is argued in the Office Action in the rejection of original claim 64 that the presence of the primary unit is indicated by induction core 107 projecting out from the wall in Yamamoto (Figure 1). However, it is respectfully submitted that Figure 1 of Yamamoto does not meet the limitation of amended claim 64 that no part of the inductive power supply is visible when viewing the surface (e.g., the wall 103 in Yamamoto) on which the device is placed to receive power inductively from the primary unit. The present invention as claimed in claim 64 is intended to address the problem of how to enable a user of a primary unit embedded in an item of furniture to identify, even when no part of the inductive power supply is visible when viewing the relevant surface, that the primary unit is present in the item of furniture. It is respectfully submitted that

this problem does not arise in Yamamoto and that there would be no teaching, suggestion or motivation to adopt this feature in Yamamoto because the inductive power supply arrangement disclosed therein involves the projecting induction core 107 which, by definition, must be visible when viewing the relevant surface.

A third group of claims includes new independent claims 72, 84, 95, and 96. These claims incorporate the above-discussed limitation relating to the independence of the attaching element from the inductive power supply-receiver as now set forth in the first group of claims (claims 17, 32, 42, and 61, as now amended). Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims patentably distinguish over Yamamoto for the same reasons discussed above. However, this third group of claims also recites the second alternative feature of original claim 20, viz., that the attaching element is adapted to attach the device to the primary unit in any position within a two-dimensional area of the power transfer surface. Thus, the claims make it clear that the two-dimensional area is an area of the two-dimensional area (as is clearly shown in Figure 2 of the instant application) and as described, for example, at lines 25-28 of page 9. These claims also recite that the power is received when the device is placed in any such position within the two-dimensional area.

Claims 73-83 which depend on the third group of claims correspond, respectively, to dependent claims 18, 21, and 23-31 of the first group of claims. Similarly, the dependent claims 85-92 of the third group of claims correspond, respectively, to the dependent system claims 33-41 of the first group of claims. Finally, the dependent "portable electric or electronic device" claims 94 and 95 correspond, respectively, to the dependent device claims 43 and 44 of the first group of claims.

Finally, the comments in the Office Action with respect to original claim 23 have been noted. However, it is not clear if the Examiner is actually objecting to the term "spike" as being unclear or inconsistent with the description. In any event, to lay the matter to rest, the word "elongate projecting element" has been substituted for "spike" and, in order to more clearly distinguish from the Yamamoto reference, the system is claimed as comprising a plurality of elongate projecting elements. Thus, insofar as the induction coil can be regarded as a "spike" or an elongate projecting element, induction core 107 is clearly a single "spike" and therefore does not meet the recitation in claim 23, as amended, of a plurality of elongate projecting elements. Similar language is used in new claim 75.

Allowance of the application in its present form is respectfully solicited.

END REMARKS

ATTACHMENT D
Amendments to the Drawings

The attached drawing Replacement Sheet includes the following change:

in Figure 1, the label PRIOR ART has been added.

The above noted change is shown on the Annotated sheet also provided herewith.

The Replacement Sheet replaces the original or previously filed corresponding sheet having the same figure.

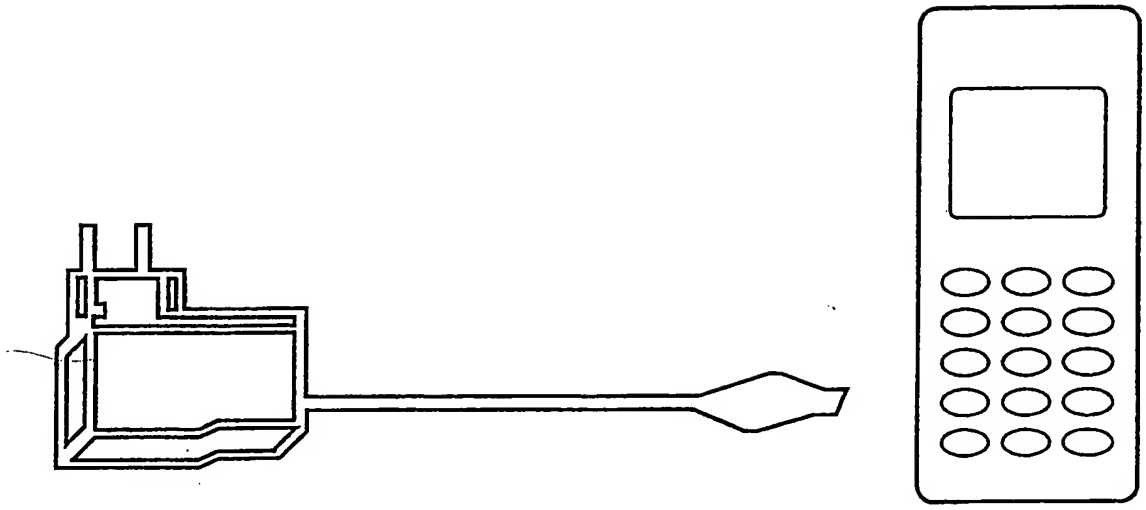

Fig. 1
PRIOR ART